

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 12-13 and 22 so that the current status of all claims is as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for assembling a database regarding claimant eligibility for relief in a multiple-party proceeding, the method comprising:

~~providing access~~ transmitting computer instructions via a computer network for filing one or more claims for relief in the multiple-party proceeding, each of the claims for relief comprising first information regarding a claimant and second information regarding the claimant's eligibility for relief;

receiving each of the claims for relief via the computer network; and

validating, by a computing system, each of the claims for relief by comparing either of the first or second information against a pre-defined dataset.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the pre-defined dataset includes a class list of known class members potentially eligible for relief.

3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, the method further comprising associating a unique personal identifier with each of the claims for relief, the unique personal identifier being capable of uniquely identifying the claimant.

4. (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein associating a unique personal identifier with each of the claims for relief includes associating a reference string with each of the claims for relief.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, the method further comprising:
 providing the reference string to the claimant prior to receiving each of the claims for relief; and
 receiving the reference string with each of the claims for relief.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein validating each of the claims for relief comprises comparing the reference string provided to the claimant against the reference string received with each of the claims for relief.
7. (original) The method according to claim 3, wherein associating a unique personal identifier with each of the claims for relief includes associating a keycode with each of the claims for relief.
8. (original) The method according to claim 7, the method further comprising receiving the keycode with each of the claims for relief.
9. (original) The method according to claim 8, wherein validating each of the claims for relief comprises comparing the keycode received with each of the claims for relief against the pre-defined dataset.
10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, further comprising processing the keycode to determine whether the claimant may be eligible for relief.
11. (previously presented) The method according to claims 1, wherein validating each of the claims for relief comprises:
 - comparing a reference string provided to the claimant against a reference string received with each of the claims for relief; and
 - comparing a keycode received with each of the claims for relief against the pre-defined dataset.
12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~providing access~~ transmitting computer instructions comprises transmitting a computer application via the computer network, the computer application being configured to receive each of the claims for relief.

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~providing access~~ transmitting computer instructions comprises transmitting a form to a claimant via the computer network, the form being adapted for receiving each of the claims for relief.
14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising processing at least one of the first and second information to determine whether the claimant may be eligible for relief.
15. (original) The method according to claim 14, wherein processing at least one of the first and second information comprises defining a criterion for eligibility for relief and determining whether at least part of the second information meets the criterion.
16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing third information regarding receiving the one or more claims for relief.
17. (original) The method according to claim 16, wherein storing the third information comprises storing one selected from the group consisting of a network address from which each of the claims for relief was received, a date when the each of the claims for relief was received, and a time when each of the claims for relief was received.
18. (original) The method according to claim 1, the method further comprising receiving a digital signature uniquely identifying the source of each of the claims for relief.
19. (original) The method according to claim 1, the method further comprising confirming receipt of the first and second information via the computer network.
20. (original) The method according to claim 1, the method further comprising providing a distribution to eligible claimants in the multiple-party proceeding.

21. (original) The method according to claim 1, the method further comprising providing access to the database to at least one third party having an interest in the multiple-party proceeding thereby allowing the at least one third party in the multiple-party proceeding to monitor the filing of each of the claims for relief.

22. (currently amended) A computer system for assembling a database regarding claimant eligibility for relief in a multiple-party proceeding, the system comprising:

a client computing system for ~~providing access~~ transmitting computer instructions via a computer network for filing one or more claims for relief in the multiple-party proceeding, each of the claims for relief comprising first information regarding a claimant and second information regarding the claimant's eligibility for relief; and

a server computing system for receiving each of the claims for relief via the computer network; and

a validation module coupled to the server computing system for validating each of the claims for relief by comparing either of the first or second information against a pre-defined dataset.

23. (original) The system according to claim 22, wherein the pre-defined dataset includes a class list of known class members potentially eligible for relief.

24. (previously presented) The system according to claim 22, further comprising a reference string that has been provided to claimants prior to receiving the first and second information, wherein the reference string is received in connection with the first and second information, and wherein the validation module processes the reference string to determine whether the claimant may be eligible for relief.

25. (previously presented) The system according to claim 22, further comprising a keycode received in connection with the first and second information, and wherein the validation module processes the keycode to determine whether the claimant may be eligible for relief.

26. (previously presented) The system according to claim 22, wherein the validation module processes at least one of the first and second information to determine whether the claimant may be eligible for relief.